

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
21 May 2004 (21.05.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/041520 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **B29D 30/20**,  
30/00

(74) Agents: **BOTTERO, Carlo** et al.; Pirelli S.p.A., Viale  
Sarca, 222, I-20126 Milano (IT).

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/IB2003/003077

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,  
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,  
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,  
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,  
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,  
MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC,  
SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA,  
UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date: 1 August 2003 (01.08.2003)

(25) Filing Language: Italian

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
PCT/IT02/00698 5 November 2002 (05.11.2002) IT

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,  
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),  
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,  
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,  
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,  
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **PIRELLI  
PNEUMATICI S.P.A.** [IT/IT]; Viale Sarca, 222, I-20126  
Milano (IT).

Published:

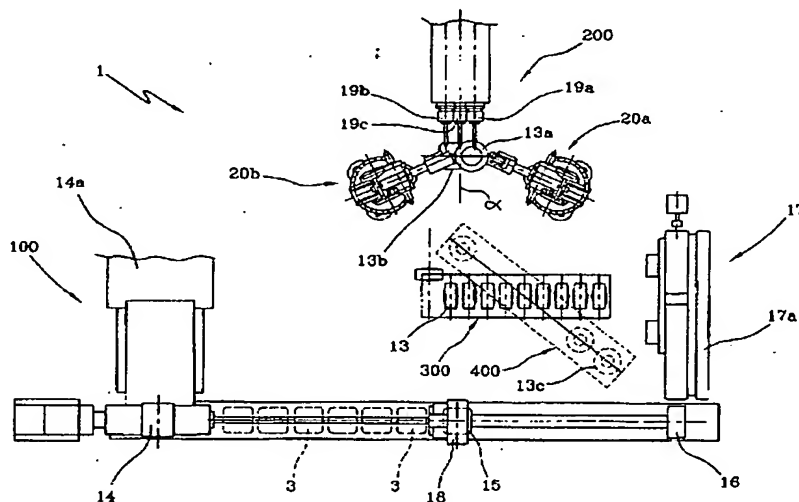
— with international search report

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): **LACAGNINA, Clau-  
dio** [IT/IT]; c/o Pirelli Pneumatici S.p.A., Viale Sarca, 222,  
I-20126 Milano (IT).

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: PROCESS AND PLANT FOR MANUFACTURING TIRES FOR VEHICLE WHEELS



(57) Abstract: Process and plant for the production of tires, in which lines (100) for assembling semifinished components in order to produce incomplete green tire structures (13) are combined with stations (200) for completing said structures laying down a continuous long element of crude elastomer material along a predetermined path so as to form a constituent element of the tire, for example tread band and/or sidewalls. This process envisages a step for temporarily storing the incomplete green tire structures (13) between the assembly line (100) and the completion station (200), performing mainly a "regulating" function so as to absorb the production of the assembly line when the latter is operative and constantly supply the completion station also when the assembly line is at a standstill.